

## Professional Learning Opportunities

The *Maine DOE professional learning calendar* is available. There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators.



## COVID-19 Resources for Schools

[Department and Commissioner updates](#) related to the COVID-19 pandemic are available for schools. Please also note a resource page for families contains updates, materials and resources.



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## NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

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As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, please ensure that contact information for teaching and non-teaching roles is updated within NEO. Instructions to update district roles (including DACs) may be found at: [Updating Staff Contact Information.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#). Please reach out to the [MEDMS helpdesk](#) with any questions or concerns.

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## Certification of MSAA & ACCESS Assessment Data in MARRS

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MSAA ELA and Math, ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs data will be available in the MAARS platform for district review. This review period is anticipated to begin Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will close on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. During this time, district staff should ensure demographics, participation or non-participation of students and subsequent and associated assessment data are correct and present. District and student quick reports are not available for review at this time as these documents are constructed and include data by content area. As content areas do not have a full data set within MAARS at this time, the reports remain under construction. All current DACs as documented in MAARS should have log in credentials. If you are experiencing challenges

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logging into MAARS, please reach out to FocalPoint K-12 support at [support@focalpointK12.net](mailto:support@focalpointK12.net).

## Upcoming Professional Learning-NWEA

This information was originally provided via email to DACs and technology coordinators and is also included with the [Maine DOE professional development calendar](#) and in the [professional learning catalog](#).

### NWEA MAP Growth Basics

This session will highlight the purpose and key metrics of essential MAP Growth classroom-level reports. The data in these reports will support teachers in identifying instructional areas of strength and focus and in engaging in conversations about student achievement and growth.

#### Learning Targets

- Learn about key MAP Growth characteristics such as RIT scores, adaptive assessment, instructional level, and normative data
- Experience the assessment as a student, learn how to set up and proctor the assessment, and discuss the importance of preparing students for the assessment

[Register MAP Growth Basics](#) – Two sessions remaining in September.



### Essential Reports for Administrators and Educators (NWEA)

Once you've administered your MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data. Plan how to use your MAP Growth data to inform ongoing work and school- and district-related decisions.

## Stay in the Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for assessments. For those looking for notifications regarding the ACCESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. The following links can be used to subscribe:

[General Assessment MEA Listserv](#)

[Alternate Assessment Listserv](#)

[WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv](#)

### Learning Targets

- Access, interpret, and apply key MAP Growth reports that school and district administrators use for planning
- Help your team interpret and apply data by conducting powerful strengths-based conversations
- Make decisions that inform school improvement planning and resource allocation with MAP Growth status and growth data

[Register Essential Reports for Administrators & Educators](#) – One session in September and four in October.

### Applying Reports 1: Connecting MAP Growth Scores to Student Learning (NWEA)

Once you're comfortable with the basics of administering MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data.

#### Learning Targets

- Understand how MAP Growth RIT scores measure what each student knows and is ready to learn
- Identify ways to use MAP Growth data to flexibly group students
- Access, interpret, and apply MAP Growth data
- Analyze MAP Growth data to support planning and instructional decisions

[Register for Applying Reports 1](#) – Eight sessions September through early November.

### Applying Reports 2: Student Growth and Goal Setting with MAP Growth

Plan how to use your MAP Growth data to inform ongoing work, with a focus on goal setting with students.

#### Learning Targets

- Build on practices that use growth projection data and learning statements to engage students in setting academic goals
- Access and interpret growth data and apply it to student instruction
- Explore reports and resources to support sharing performance and growth data with students and parents

[Register Applying Reports 2](#) – Six sessions September through early November.

## A Reminder for ACCESS

- Plan, schedule, and review assessment sessions in WIDA AMS
- Share all important technology updates with the district technology coordinator.
- Confer with special education director/case managers to confirm that the accurate accommodations have been selected /established for students with IEPs in the WIDA AMS system.

[Click here to read more about ACCESS accommodations.](#)

Need support with ordering additional materials, setting up assessment sessions and/or accommodations, or identifying required assessment training? If the answer is yes, please reach out to the Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments, Jodi Bossio-Smith, at [Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov](mailto:Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov)



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## NWEA Fall Assessment Administration

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The NWEA state assessment window will open on October 4 through October 29, 2021. As a reminder, text-to-speech will be disabled for the reading assessment during this window but is available for SAUs to use locally in the broader assessment window of August 15 through November 30. Additionally, the language usage assessment will be administered during the fall 2021 and spring 2022 assessment administration windows. The full [MEA calendar](#) is available on the [assessment pages](#) within the Maine DOE website.

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## Changes to Availability of Read Aloud Functionality for Fall NWEA Admin

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As we enter and prepare for the second administration of the NWEA assessment, we are pleased to share that students who use read aloud accessibility / accommodations as outlined within an IEP or 504 plan for classroom instruction, will be able to use read aloud accessibility / functionality for the reading of directions, questions, and answer choices within the NWEA reading session. **Reading session passages may not be read aloud.** The read aloud accommodation requires provision of a trained 1:1 support person and should not be utilized in group settings.

TTS remains unavailable in the MARC platform for the reading session during the state administration window of October 4 – 29. TTS remains available as outlined within an IEP or 504 plan for classroom instruction for the mathematics and language use sessions.

Supporting documentation and technical assistance will be provided at the September 15, Lunch and Learn / Office Hours at 12 noon. [Registration is now available for the Lunch and Learn Office hours.](#)

## Special Considerations Module:

The assessment team is currently working with the data and OIT teams to revise permissions related to the special consideration module within NEO. As a direct result of feedback within the assessment survey, we are working to add the role of DAC to the applicable permissions. There was some interest in the special education director and technology director also having access to the module however, in an effort to maintain consistency and limit broad access, we are currently pausing providing additional access however, superintendents are able to request additional designees be added to the module at any time. Information on how to request access for additional designees can be located on the MEDMS Helpdesk – [Request access page](#).

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## Regional & Out of State Program Communication

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An initial communication including information regarding out of state programs was provided to Special Education Directors and DACs on September 2, 2021. On September 7, 2021, an initial communication will be provided to regional programs, and out of state program coordinators with a cc to Special Education Directors. Included in both communications is an assessment administration check list. This document provides some additional guidance while supporting collaboration and communication between the sending SAU and the out of state program. Please don't hesitate to reach out to [Jodi Bossio-Smith](#) or [Nancy Godfrey](#) with questions.



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## Assessment Lunch & Learn Office Hours

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The Maine Department of Education assessment team will reinstitute assessment office hours beginning on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 12 noon. Moving forward, based on survey feedback, office hours will be provided once per month with the schedule adjusting to bi-weekly and weekly as needed during assessment administration. Topics to be included during the September office hours include regional program/out of state students, onboarding, and rostering; EL start dates and overview of ACCESS timeline; alternate assessment flags in NEO and an overview of the 1% timeline. A calendar of potential topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages [Registration Page](#).

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## ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

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All students who are identified as English learners **must** be given an EL Start Date in Synergy. This ensures that the state has accurate enrollment records for EL students receiving services and participating in ELP assessment. For more information on submitting required English learner data, please attend the DOE Data Team's training on September 9 at 10 am. [Join the webinar](#).

## Quick Links



- [COVID-19 Toolkit](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Fingerprinting](#)
- [Data Warehouse](#)
- [NEO](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)
- [School & Student Supports](#)
- [Maine School Safety Center](#)

**NEW for SY 21-22:** This year, Maine DOE will coordinate the materials ordering process for ACCESS assessments in each SAU. This change in procedure is intended to support SAUs and provide EL educators and coordinators more critically needed instructional time with students. Materials orders will be generated based on SAU level enrollment data [EL Start Date]. SAUs will have the opportunity to order materials for newly arrived ELs and transfer ELs during the additional materials ordering window, which will be open in WIDA AMS 12/15/21 – 2/25/22. To request a paper-based or Braille form of the ACCES for ELLs, please contact assessment coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith: [jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov).

## MSAA & MSAA Science

All students who participate in the alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards [AA-AAS] **must** have the alternate flag checked in Synergy. The MSAA and MSAA Science are designed for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and participation is made by the IEP Team using state criteria for eligibility.

\*Please note, the alternate assessment flag in Synergy must be re-checked each year that the student remains eligible to participate in alternate assessments.



## Special Considerations Module

The assessment team is currently working with the data and OIT teams to revise permissions related to the special consideration module within NEO. As a direct result of feedback within the assessment survey, we are working to add the role of DAC to the applicable permissions. There was some interest in the special education director and technology director also having access to the module however, in an effort to maintain consistency and limit broad access, we are currently pausing providing additional access however,

## Learn with MOOSE!

Check out the MOOSE platform! MOOSE is an acronym that stands for Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education. This website contains a learning library of assorted project-based learning experiences. Modules are self-paced and offer variety and choice in activities and topics. Search for a module by a specific grade span, subject, or topic, or simply choose something that interests and excites you to get started.

Sign Up is OPTIONAL! This site is free and open to use. Login is used *only* to keep track of your progress within modules.

## Next Lunch & Learn Office Hours

September 15, 2021  
2:00 Join us on Zoom

Topics we will cover include:

- Regional Programs
- Out of State Students
- Certification of Data in MAARS
- Plus more

[To See Our Full Schedule for Lunch & Learn Office Hours](#)

superintendents are able to request additional designees be added to the module at any time. Information to do this can be located on the MEDMS Helpdesk – [Request access page](#).

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## MECAS Guidelines SY 2021-2022

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The MECAS guidelines provide background and reference information for educators and administrators responsible for administration of assessments to Maine students. This document is designed to provide the breadth of background information that district and/or school personnel need to carry out the responsibilities for the successful administration of the individual assessments within the Maine Comprehensive Assessment System providing general information that is common across all assessments in the Maine Comprehensive Assessment System. Although the team is working to update for the 2021-2022 school year, this document is not intended to replace assessment specific guides or handbooks. This document is also formerly known as the OPM and are now available on the [assessment team homepage](#).



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## September 15, 2021: Overview of Alternate Assessments & the 1% Population Webinar (MSAA)

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During this webinar, Maine DOE will provide an overview of federal requirements pertaining to the alternate assessment of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. We will also provide information about Maine's alternate assessments and share some critical dates for SY 21-22. This session is recommended for new DACs, alternate assessment coordinators and special educators, and is open to everyone! [Register for the webinar here](#).

## MEA Assessment Calendar for 2021-2022

The assessment calendar for school year 2021-22 is now available on the [assessment calendar webpage](#) and is included below for your convenience.

Assessment Title	Administration Date(s)	Administration Window	Method of Delivery	Intended For
ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 10 - March 4, 2022	8-weeks	Kindergarten: Paper Grades 1-12: Online	English Learners K-12
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 10 - March 4, 2022	8-weeks	Paper / Pencil	English learners in Grades 1-12 with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
MSAA ELA/Literacy & Mathematics	March 14 - April 29, 2022	6-weeks	Online	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 3-8, & 3rd Year of High School
NWEA Mathematics, Reading & Language Usage	FALL: October 4 - 29, 2021  SPRING: May 2 - 27, 2022	4-weeks	Online	Students in Grades 3-8 & 3rd Year of High School
MSAA Science	March 14 - April 29, 2022	6 weeks	Online	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 5, 8, & 3rd Year of High School
Science	May 2 - 13, 2022  May 16 - 27, 2022	2 weeks  2 weeks	Online	Grades 5, 8 3rd Year of High School

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## National & International Assessments

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Assessment	Administration Dates	Intended For
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	January 24 - March 4, 2022	Grades 4 & 8 Sample of Selected Schools
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)	September 20 - October 29, 2021	Age 15 Sample of Selected Schools
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)	Tentatively Fall 2021	Sample of Selected Schools
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)	N/A 2021	Sample of Selected Schools

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### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022

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Preparations for NAEP 2022 have begun. Schools and districts selected for participation in the assessment will be notified in August. This year's assessment subjects include the biennially administered Mathematics and Reading assessments for grades 4 and 8, as well as Civics and U.S. History for grade 8. The scheduled window for NAEP administration is January 24 – March 4, 2022.

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### The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021

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A small number of Maine schools have been selected for the PISA 2021 sample. These schools were notified of their selection for participation in June. PISA is the largest international education study in the world and measures the mathematics, reading, science, and financial literacy of 15-year old students nearing the end of compulsory education. The assessment window is scheduled for September 30 – October 29, 2021. More information, including the PISA Data Explorer and the 2018 Study Results, is available [here on the PISA website](#). Please reach out to Dr. [Regina Lewis](#) with any questions.

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*Next Issue of Maine Department of Education Assessment Monthly Update will be Posted October 1, 2021*

